

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Kindly replace the Abstract with the following:

A method and a device are provided, in which a signal is encoded to obtain a bit-stream. Blocks of quantized transform coefficients are provided. Transform coefficients corresponding to higher frequencies are attenuated more than coefficients corresponding to lower frequencies. For attenuating higher-frequency coefficients, the invention provides a curve (QC) with higher quantization step-size (Q_{ADD}) for transform coefficients (C_i) corresponding to higher frequencies. Because this additional quantization step size (Q_{ADD}) is put in the resulting bit-stream, the reconstruction is performed with an original quantization step-size, without taking the additional quantizing into account. Therefore, a reconstructed coefficient will have a lower value than an original coefficient (C_i). Bit rates can easily be regulated by shifting the curve (QC) to lower or higher frequencies and/or multiplying the curve (QC).

Fig-3